

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06999 192342Z
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 190931Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5864
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: YI CHOL-SUNG PLEDGES TO REFORM YUSHIN FROM WITHIN

SUMMARY: YI CHOL-SUNG CONTINUES TOUTING HIS MIDDLE-OF-ROAD
POLICY, PLEDGING NDP WILL WORK WITHIN YUSHIN SYSTEM TO
REFORM IT, BUT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN
HIMSELF AND ROKG ON ISSUES LIKE U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL,
ROK/U.S./JAPAN RELATIONS, AND PACE OF EM 9 PRISONER
RELEASES. AT SAME TIME HE IS TRYING TO EXERT GREATER
CONTROLS OVER FACTIONS IN HIS OWN PARTY.

1. NDP CHAIRMAN YI CHOL-SUNG'S OPEN ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLICIT
SUPPORT OF YUSHIN, DESPITE HIS CALL FOR REFORMS, GIVES
PARTY HARDLINERS OPPORTUNITY TO TAR HIM ONCE AGAIN WITH
SAKURA BRUSH. SOME HARD CORE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE
JOINED ATTACK ON YI, CLAIMING HIS POLICIES MAKE YI
SPOKESMAN FOR GOVERNMENT NOT OPPOSITION.

2. ON AUGUST 12, CHAIRMAN YI RETURNED TO SEOUL FROM JAPAN,
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REENUNCIATING AT AIRPORT HIS CONTENTION THAT "YUSHIN WILL
LEAD TO DEMOCRACY AND SYSTEM IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO UNDERGO
CHANGE." HE NOTED NDP WOULD SEEK REFORMS IN PRESENT ELECTION
LAWS AND REGULATIONS AT SEPTEMBER 20 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REGULAR
SESSION. IN ATTEMPTING TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND
ROKG, YI REITERATED HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S. TROOP
WITHDRAWAL, STILL A POPULAR POSITION WITH KOREAN PUBLIC AT

LARGE. (ROKG CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS CONTENTION THAT
WITHDRAWAL IS ACCEPTABLE WITH ADEQUATE COMPENSATORY MEASURES.)
YI ALSO PELDGED HIS DESIRE TO IMPROVE ROK RELATIONS WITH U.S.
AND JAPAN AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPES FOR EARLY RELREASE OF
EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9 PRISONERS. HE MADE POINT OF INDICATING
TO PRESS HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED
ON AUGUST 15. IT IS BELIEVED BUT NOT REPORTED HERE THAT HE
ALSO EXPRESSED IN JAPAN HIS HOPE FOR REPEAL OF E.M. 9 ITSELF.

3. PART OF YI'S PROBLEM IN SEPARATING HIS POLICIES FROM ROKG IS FACT

THAT PRESS CONTINUES TO DOWNPLAY HIS DIFFERENCES WITH
GOVERNMENT WHILE PUBLICIZING HARMONY. YI'S BEST AVAILABLE
FORUM TO EMPHASIZE SUCH DIFFERENCES WILL BE FALL NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY SESSION. HE HAS ALREADY LET IT BE KNOWN PRIVATELY
THAT HARDLINERS WITHIN PARTY WHO DO NOT SUPPORT HIM MAY HAVE
DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING NOMINATION AND CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. PARTY FACTIONALISM IS STILL RAMPANT BUT
HAS COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS PROBLEM BETTER THAN HIS PREDECESSOR,
KIM YONG-SAM, DID EVEN AT HIS STRONGEST.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770300-0945
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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